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18 November 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with John Lehman on Dr. Kissinger's staff
in the White House, re Symington Subcommittee

1. Late this afternoon Mr. Lehman called regarding the Director's appearance yesterday before the Symington Subcommittee on U.S. Security Agreements and Commitments Abroad. He asked who attended and what had happened. I said that the Director and Ambassador Unger had attended and I had accompanied the Director, but the Director had not testified and the Committee apparently was interested only in getting Ambassador Unger to testify for the record.
2. Lehman said he had gotten reports that Unger had claimed he was under orders from Dr. Kissinger not to testify regarding certain matters, and asked if I could confirm this.
3. I said my recollection was not entirely clear on this point, but I said the impression that Unger gave was that he was not exactly sure where his instructions had originated. I explained that Unger had said that the instructions reached him directly from Ambassador McClintock, but I added that Unger mentioned something about these instructions being in accord with the understanding of Dr. Kissinger and the Secretary. I said I could not recall Unger's words precisely.
4. Lehman asked if any record was kept of this part of the discussion and I said a reporter was present and a transcript had been prepared. I said we did not have control over the transcript because the Director had not testified.

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5. Lehman said the situation was very confused. I explained that Unger had offered to go back to his superiors for a change of instructions, but felt he could not, under existing instructions, speak for the record in answer to the questions asked by the Committee. I said I assumed the matter had been taken up with Secretary Rogers, who was scheduled to appear the next day.

6. Lehman concluded by saying that if we were contacted by representatives of the Committee or the State Department in connection with this problem, Lehman should be notified immediately. He said the White House was trying to coordinate the participation of the executive agencies, "but without success so far." He said the Symington Subcommittee apparently was trying to deal with each executive agency separately and the White House was trying to prevent this. Lehman said he was the "contact man for the senior staff men in the White House group" and he repeated that any Agency contacts with the Committee or the State Department regarding this whole matter should be promptly reported to him.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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